

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 SCS-03 PA-03 PRS-01 INR-09 L-03

H-02 RSC-01 /055 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ E: TJBURKE: SM EXT. 28851

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R 162002 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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STADIS//////////

E. O. 11652, N/ A

TAGS: PINT, MI

SUBJ: JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

1. MARCH 8 EDITION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESS PUBLICATION "AWAKE" CARRIES ARTICLE ON MISTREATMENT OF WITNESSES IN MALAWI. ARTICLE POINTS OUT: (A) WITNESSES WHO FLED TO ZAMBIA LAST YEAR WERE DUPED INTO RETURNING TO MALAWI BY GRZ OFFICIALS; (B) WHEN RETURNEES ARRIVED IN MALAWI, THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO SUBSTANTIALLY SAME TREATMENT WHICH EARLIER HAD LED THEM TO FLEE COUNTRY; AND (C) RETURNEES CONTINUING RESIST PRESSURE TO PURCHASE MCP CARDS, UNDERGOING MISTREATMENT AND AGAIN TAKING TO BUSH.

2. DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS WITNESSES HAVE STATIONED THEMSELVES AT ENTRANCES TO DEPARTMENT IN ORDER PASS OUT COPIES OF MARCH 8 "AWAKE." ACCORDING TO CHARGE MKONA ONE WITNESS WAS PASSING OUT MAGAZINE ON MARCH 9 IN FRONT OF MALAWI CHANCERY. AT MKONA'S REQUEST, POLICE ASKED

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WITNESS TO LEAVE WHICH HE DID WITHOUT CAUSING SCENE.

3. IN MARCH 14 TELECON WITH AF/ E A WITNESS INDICATED HE HAD BEEN RESEARCHING U. S. ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI, HAD ALREADY MADE PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH STAFF OF HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, AND THAT SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DIGGS

AWAITING LETTER FROM HIM ON PLIGHT OF MALAWI WITNESSES.
DEPOFF TOLD WITNESS THAT GOM REACTION TO REPRESENTATIONS ON SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING. WITNESS TOLD DEPOFF THAT HE SAW NO ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUING ATTEMPTS FOCUS U. S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION ON MATTER.

ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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